

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

5 **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 14 (original): A method of splicing a tubular heater comprising a heatable section and a cold section, said heatable
10 and said cold sections each having an outer sheath with respective first and second ends, said heatable section having a heating element for generating heat and said cold section having a cold pin for conducting an electrical current using a splicing apparatus comprising an enclosure defining a chamber, said
15 enclosure further defining openings in communication with said chamber, at least one welding tip extending into said chamber, said at least one welding tip being capable of melting said cold pin and then welding said first ends of said heatable and cold sections together, comprising the steps of:

20 a) directing said first ends of said heatable and cold sections toward each other through respective said openings to a predetermined depth;

b) placing said welding tip in close proximity with said cold pin;

c) melting a portion of said cold pin along said first end of said cold section with said welding tip;

d) pressing said first ends of said heatable section and said cold section together forming a juncture therebetween; and

5 e) welding along said juncture of said outer sheaths with said welding tip to form a weld joint therebetween.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said step c) is performed using a Tungsten Inert Shielded Gas welder.

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Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said step e) is performed using a Tungsten Inert Shielded Gas welder.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said steps c) and e) are performed in the presence of an inert gas.

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Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said heating element is centrally coiled along the length of said heatable section.

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Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said step e) is performed using an orbital Tungsten Inert Shielded Gas welder.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 18 wherein a portion of said heating element is caused to extend outwardly from said first end.

5 Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said step d) juncture is formed so that said heating element and said melted portion of said cold pin contact each other thereby forming a connection between said heating element and said cold pin as said cold pin solidifies.

10 Claims 22-31 (canceled)